

REMARKS:

The Office Action included objections relating to informalities or typographical errors which have been corrected in the Abstract and Claims, by the amendments herein.

Additional amendments to the Specification are included to correct errors in the text as well as in the drawings, particularly in FIG. 61. The Office Action also included several rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, relating to indefiniteness with respect to claims 1-15 and 17. All of these rejections are believed to be overcome by the amendments to the claims herein, in addition to any further informalities detected by Applicant.

The Examiner further rejected claims 1-20 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 11/455,454. Claim 16 also was rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-3, 8 and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,779,855 (the '855 patent) and was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitchell (U.S. 5,176,436). Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8-9 have been amended and claims 3, 14 and 16-64 have been canceled. New claims 65-71 have been added. Applicant's amendments to pending claims and additional new claims introduce further distinguishing features to overcome the rejections and to distinguish over the '855 patent and Application No. 11/455,454.

It is believed that the subject matter of the present claims is not anticipated or rendered obvious by any of the prior art.

With respect to new claims 65-71, it should be noted that the structure of Mitchell, which presents a slider crank assembly, provides a device where at no time will the slider move faster than the movement of the pin 27 that drives the slider. Indeed, given that the arc of rotation for the driving pin 27 is roughly from the 5:30 position to the 2:30 position, for most of the travel of pin 27 the slider will move a significantly lesser amount. This

arrangement in Mitchell would cause the strap take-up to be relatively slow, which would tend to make it possible to get a fair amount of travel when attempting to open a drawer where there already is one drawer open or the cabinet is locked.

In contrast, the significant mechanical advantage of the present invention, as described in the specification, not only achieves a large translation factor, reducing the force applied to the cable relative to that which is applied to the drawer, but also achieves a very rapid slack take-up that, as described, results in very little movement of a drawer before being stopped, if another drawer is already open. Indeed, the novelty of the rapid take-up and rapid movement to displace the cable relative to the initial movement of a drawer toward the open position are features within the newly added claims 65-71, where the actuating member will move faster relative to the elongated, flexible member than the driving surface of a cam which engages the actuating member.

The above amendments and remarks are fully in keeping with the subject matter disclosed and described in the specification. In accordance with the above amendments and remarks, Applicant requests consideration and entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that with such amendments, pending claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15 and newly added claims 65-71 are patentable and should be allowed. If there are any remaining issues in this application, Applicant urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

With the cancellation of claims and addition of new claims, Applicant continues to be within the limit of no more than 3 independent and 20 total claims pending. Accordingly, Applicant believes that no further fee is due with this response, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency due for the filing of this paper or to deposit any overage included herewith to deposit account number 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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